



Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The image switching device of claim 1~~ An image switching device for switching a plurality of image outputting devices connected through a digital interface, and delivering image signals, comprising:

image switching control means for sending image switching control data for selecting and controlling a desired device out of the plurality of image outputting devices to the selected image outputting device;

image signal selecting means for selecting and receiving the image signal transmitted from the selected image outputting device according to the image switching control data; and

synchronous signal transmitting means for transmitting a synchronizing timing signal for synchronizing the image outputting devices, wherein

the digital interface conforms to the IEEE1394 standard, and the synchronizing timing signal and image signal to be transmitted are transmitted by isochronous communication packet.

3. (Withdrawn) The image switching device of claim 1, wherein the digital interface conforms to the IEEE1394 standard, and the synchronizing timing signal, image signal, and image switching control data of image outputting devices to be transmitted are transmitted by isochronous communication packet.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The image switching device of claim 1~~ An image switching device for switching a plurality of image outputting devices connected through a digital interface, and delivering image signals, comprising:

image switching control means for sending image switching control data for selecting and controlling a desired device out of the plurality of image outputting devices to the selected image outputting device;

image signal selecting means for selecting and receiving the image signal transmitted from the selected image outputting device according to the image switching control data; and

synchronous signal transmitting means for transmitting a synchronizing timing signal for synchronizing the image outputting devices, wherein

the digital interface conforms to the IEEE1394 standard,

the synchronizing timing signal and image signal to be transmitted are transmitted by isochronous communication packet, and

the image switching control data of image outputting devices to be transmitted is transmitted by an asynchronous communication packet to the synchronous signal transmitting means, and is transferred by isochronous communication packet together with the synchronizing timing signal.

5. (Currently Amended) The image switching device of claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein the synchronizing timing signal and image switching control data of image outputting devices are transmitted at least by either an isochronous communication packet not containing image data or an asynchronous communication packet.

6. (Currently Amended) The image switching device of claim 2, wherein the image switching control data of image outputting devices is transmitted by an asynchronous communication packet.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The image switching device of claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein the synchronizing timing signal is transmitted to all of the plurality of image outputting devices.

9. (Original) The image switching device of claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein the synchronizing timing signal is transmitted in a specific channel to plural image outputs.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The image switching device of claim 7, wherein~~ An image switching device for switching a plurality of image outputting devices connected through a digital interface, and delivering image signals, comprising:

image switching control means for sending image switching control data for selecting and controlling a desired device out of the plurality of image outputting devices to the selected image outputting device;

image signal selecting means for selecting and receiving the image signal transmitted from the selected image outputting device according to the image switching control data; and

synchronous signal transmitting means for transmitting a synchronizing timing signal for synchronizing the image outputting devices, wherein

the image switching control data of image outputting devices contains transmission channels and transmission command to specified image outputs, and

the image switching control data of image outputting devices designates different transmission channels to the plurality of image outputting devices.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The image switching device of claim 7, wherein~~ An image switching device for switching a plurality of image outputting devices connected through a digital interface, and delivering image signals, comprising:

image switching control means for sending image switching control data for selecting and controlling a desired device out of the plurality of image outputting devices to the selected image outputting device;

image signal selecting means for selecting and receiving the image signal transmitted from the selected image outputting device according to the image switching control data; and

synchronous signal transmitting means for transmitting a synchronizing timing signal for synchronizing the image outputting devices, wherein

the image switching control data of image outputting devices contains transmission channels and transmission command to specified image outputs,

the image switching control data of image outputting devices designates ~~[[a]]~~ the same transmission channel to the plurality of image outputting devices,

the number of transmission frames of a desired image is a specified value, and

the number of transmission frames of other images is 0.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The image switching device of claim 7, wherein~~ An image switching device for switching a plurality of image outputting devices connected through a digital interface, and delivering image signals, comprising:

image switching control means for sending image switching control data for selecting and controlling a desired device out of the plurality of image outputting devices to the selected image outputting device;

image signal selecting means for selecting and receiving the image signal transmitted from the selected image outputting device according to the image switching control data; and

synchronous signal transmitting means for transmitting a synchronizing timing signal for synchronizing the image outputting devices, wherein

the image switching control data of image outputting devices contains transmission channels and transmission command to specified image outputs,

the image switching control data of image outputting devices designates a specified transmission channel to a specified image outputting device[[,]] of the plurality of image outputting devices, and designates [[a]] the same transmission channels to the other image outputting devices,

the number of transmission frames of the specified image outputting device is a specified value,

the number of transmission frames of one of the other image outputting devices is a specified value, and

the number of transmission frames of the remainder is 0.

13-16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) An image switching device for receiving images from at least first, second, and third image outputting devices through a communication path, the image switching device comprising:

a control unit for sending control data to the first to third image outputting devices, the control data assigning a first channel of the communication path to the first and second image outputting devices and providing the first and second image outputting devices with timing information of outputting of images on the first channel, and assigning a second channel only to the third image outputting device and providing the third image outputting devices with timing information of outputting of images on the second channel; and

a selection unit for selecting the first channel or the second channel according to the control data to obtain images from the first to third image outputting devices.

18. (New) An image switching device for receiving images from at least first and second image outputting devices through a communication path, the image switching device comprising:

a control unit for sending control data to the first and second image outputting devices, the image switching control data assigning a first channel of the communication path to the first image outputting device and providing the first image outputting device with timing information of outputting of images on the first channel, and assigning a second channel of the communication path to the second image outputting device and providing the second image outputting device with timing information of outputting of images on the second channel; and

a selecting unit for selecting the first channel or the second channel according to the control data to obtain images from the first and second image outputting devices.